

REMARKS

Claims 23-25, 47, 49, 50, 51, and 53 are now presented for examination. Claims 48 and 54 have been canceled herein without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter.

In the Office Action, Claims 23-25, 47, 49-51, and 53 were indicated as allowed. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of those claims.

Claims 48 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,905,335 (*Fushimi*) in view of U.S. Patent 4,445,132 (*Ichikawa*) and U.S. Patent 6,603,254 (*Ando*). Without conceding the propriety of the rejection of these claims, each claim has been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Accordingly, only allowed claims remain pending herein.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

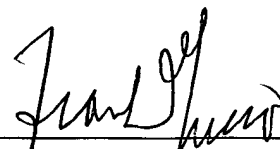
The Examiner is also respectfully requested to note that a Request For Consideration Of Previously Cited Art was filed on February 18, 2004. Processing of that paper also is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by



telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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